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St. David Man Sentenced on Federal Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Michael Easler**, 28, formerly of St. David, Maine, was sentenced on August 8, 2007 in U.S. District Court in Bangor to serve a 145 month prison sentence on various drug trafficking and money laundering charges. The Court also imposed a four year period of supervised release and ordered Easler to pay a \$2,904,000 money judgment to the U.S. Government, pursuant to the asset forfeiture provisions of the federal narcotics laws. Easler was charged together with St. David, Maine, resident Michael Pelletier, and others, in a multi-count indictment on September 7, 2006. On March 27, 2007 Easler pled guilty to each of the offenses with which he was charged. Pelletier was convicted last month following a jury trial.

Court records reveal that from January 2003 to at least March 2006, Easler conspired with Pelletier and others to import marijuana from Canada and distribute it here in the United States. As part of the conspiracy, Easler smuggled 60 pound quantities of marijuana at a time across the St. John River into Maine. The marijuana was sold by Easler and Pelletier to various customers. Court records also reveal that Easler and Pelletier took various steps to launder the proceeds of their drug trafficking activities.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Office of the Inspector General-Social Security Administration. United States Attorney Silsby also recognized the contributions of the Maine State Police, the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and the Madawaska Police Department to the investigation.

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